

House Republican Press Release

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Williams Applauds Rell's Veto of Flawed Contracting Bill



HARTFORD- State Representative Sean Williams (R-Oakville) applauded the veto of SB 2101, An Act Concerning Reform of the State Contracting Process by Governor M. Jodi Rell. Governor Rell announced her veto while at the Central Connecticut Association of Retarded Citizens in New Britain yesterday.

Rell cited elements of the measure which jeopardized human services to many of Connecticut's most vulnerable citizens and families by requiring non-profit service providers to be paid along the prevailing wage scale that state employees are paid along, in essence removing one of the chief cost-saving elements of turning to non-profits for such services.

"The Governor clearly did the right thing here," said Representative Williams. "Just as she noted in her veto message, the Democrats in the majority have taken the bill the Governor gave them to clean up the contracting process, and re-worked it into a vehicle to guarantee an increase in the number of state employee jobs, and to lock in an inability of the state to realize significant savings from turning to non-profits for services."

Williams noted that the service providers who enter into service contracts with the state are usually small operations that rely on the state to operate. Many of them would fail should the state no longer be able to afford their services.

<>"This would be a failure on the part of the state to adequately serve those who need critical social services, such as the disabled and mentally retarded," said Williams.

Rep. Williams noted that he hopes real and significant contract reform, which addresses the real problem of favoritism in contract awards, is brought up during the next session.

"Don't let anyone fool you," Williams added. "We can have clean contracting and support our non-profits at the same time."